एक माननीय सदस्य : आप लोग जवाब दीजिए।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Salve, please ask him to keep quiet.

उपसभापति : मि० अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी, आप बोलिए। ... **(व्यवधान)**

एक माननीय सदस्य : (व्यवधान) ... उस हुकूमत से क्या उम्मीद की जा सकती है? आज संसद भवन के बाहर हरिजनों पर पुलिस लाठी चार्ज कर रही है... **(व्यवधान)** ...

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : आज हजारों-हजार आंगनबाड़ी कार्यकर्त्ता संसद के बाहर अखिल भारतीय प्रदर्शन कर रही हैं और इनकी मांगें काफ़ी समय से उपेक्षित पड़ी है। ये महिलाएं जो बच्चों को संभालने का, उन को शिक्षा देने का और उनके स्वास्थ्य की ओर ध्यान देने का इतना महत्वपूर्ण काम करती हैं, उनके इतने महत्वपूर्ण काम के उपरांत उनकी मांगों की ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया जा रहा है। मैं आपसे आग्रह करूंगी कि आप इस ओर सरकार का ध्यान दिलाएं।

उपसभापति : अटल जी, आप को महिलाएं डिस्टर्ब कर रही हैं। आप बोलिए।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : खुदा करे कि ये डिस्टर्ब हो जाएं। ... **(व्यवधान)**

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION ON THE PRICE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदया, मैं आपका आभारी हूं कि आपने मुझे देश में मूल्यों की स्थिति पर अल्पकालिक चर्चा आरंभ करनेका अवसर दिया है।

कोई इस बात से इंकार नहीं कर सकता कि देश मूल्यों के संकट में फंसा है। मूल्यों का यह संकट दोहरा संकट है। एक ओर हम जीवन मूल्यों के संकट में फंसे हैं और दूसरी ओर जीवनोपयोगी वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में वृद्धि के कारण संकट में फंसे हैं। मैं यहां जीवन मूल्यों के संकट की चर्चा नहीं करूंगा। वह अलग विषय है। उस पर फिर कभी चर्चा होगी। मेरा उद्देश्य इस समय कीमतों की वृद्धि के कारण जो स्थिति पैदा हुई है, उसकी ओर सदन का ध्यान खींचना है।

इससे कोई इंकार नहीं कर सकता कि वर्तमान सरकार को जो आर्थिक स्थिति उत्तराधिकार में मिली थी, वह बड़ी शोचनीय थी।

श्री सुरेश कालमाडी (महाराष्ट्र) : कितने दिन ऐसे कहोगे? ... **(व्यवधान)**

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मैं आपकी बात पर आ रहा था ... **(व्यवधान)**

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया (बिहार) : इन्हें कांग्रेस से निकाले गए जो नेता मिले थे, वह बड़े घटिया थे। वह सरकार नहीं चला सके।

उपसभापति : आनरेबल मेंबर्स, डिप्टी लीडर आफ़ द अपोजीशन के कहने पर हम लोगों ने यह डिस्कसन लिया है। अगर आप को प्राइस राइज की सिचुएशन गंभीर लगती है तो मैं समझती हूं कि हम इसको एक शांत वातावरण में डिस्कस करें ताकि उसका कुछ मतलब निकले। कृपया किसी को डिस्टर्ब मत करिए।

श्री सैयद सिब्ते रजी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : इन्होंने पिछली सरकार का रिफ़रेंस ... **(व्यवधान)** ... ये बताएं कि क्यों प्राइसेस इतनी बढ़ रही हैं?

उपसभापति: आप अगली सरकार का जिक्र करिए, कोई पिछली का करे मगर डिस्टर्ब मत कीजिए।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अगर प्रतिपक्ष के सदस्य मुझे टोकते नहीं तो भूमिका बांधने के बाद मैं वहीं आने वाला था, लेकिन आप ने मौका नहीं दिया। पहले, आप मान लीजिए कि स्थिति अच्छी नहीं थी। लेकिन उस कारण पिछले 8-9 महीनों में क्या हुआ है, इसको दृष्टि से ओझल नहीं किया जा सकता है। सरकार को जो स्थिति उत्तराधिकार में मिली, उसको सामने रख कर सरकार ने यह आश्वासन दिया था कि बढ़ते हुए मूल्यों पर अंकुश लगाया जाएगा। यह केवल हमारा चुनाव का वायदा नहीं था। सरकार जो बनी, उसके वित्त मंत्री ने, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने भी मुख्य मंत्रियों को पत्र लिखे, संसद-सदस्यों को चिट्ठियां लिखीं। बढ़ते हुए मूल्यों पर चिंता प्रकट की और उनके लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं, इसकी ओर भी संकेत किया। वित्त मंत्री महोदय ने बजट पेश करते हुए जो भाषण दिया था, उसका एक अंश मैं उद्धृत करना चाहता हूं :-

"The first task of the new Government was to contain the rise in prices. A Cabinet Committee on prices was formed and effective steps were taken to increase the supply of essential commodities to remove the inflationary psychology and contain inflation. The price situation, however, remains a matter for concern and the management of inflation is one of the priority areas of this Government."

महोदया, जो सरकार जनता से विश्वास प्राप्त करके अस्तित्व में आई वह सरकार मूल्यों की स्थिति के बारे में चिंतित थी। उसका यह आश्वासन था कि वह कदम उठाएगी। कुछ कदम उठाए गए हैं, लेकिन उन कदमों के बावजूद कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं, यह भी एक सत्य है। आंकड़े, सरकारी आंकड़े इनकी पुष्टि करते हैं। ये आंकड़े सरकारी सूत्रों से प्राप्त हैं-

Commodities group, percentage change increase in wholesale price index as of June 23, 1990 over and December, 1989: Pulses 10.7, fruits and vegetables 35.1, cardamom 21.1, other food articles 15.0, oilseeds 22.6, sugar, khandsari and gur 10.0; edible oils 17.5, beverages, tobacco, etc. 11.8.

होलसेल, थोक मूल्य बढ़े हैं, वे आंकड़े मेरे पास हैं। लेकिन थोक मूल्य सही स्थिति का दिग्दर्शन नहीं करते, उपभोक्ता को फुटकर मूल्यों में सामान खरीदना पड़ता है। लेकिन, थोक मूल्यों की वृद्धि भी असाधारण वृद्धि है, चिंताजनक वृद्धि है, आम आदमी की कमर तोड़ने वाली महंगाई है। इस महंगाई का कारण क्या है ? निस्संदेह, जो आर्थिक स्थिति उत्तराधिकार में मिली थी, जो मुद्रास्फीति इस सरकार को उत्तराधिकार में मिली है, वह कारण है। लेकिन जो उत्तराधिकार में मिला, वह तो चुनाव के बाद मिल गया . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . .

श्री जगश देसाई (महाराष्ट्र) : वाजपेयी जी, एक मिनट . . (**व्यवधान**) . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Desai, please don't disturb. Let him speak.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): They have their own speakers.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't interject. I would not allow.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : महोदया, मैं टोका-टोकी के खिलाफ़ नहीं हूं, मगर रोका-रोकी के खिलाफ़ हूं।

महोदया, मेरा निवेदन है कि जो कदम सरकार ने उठाये हैं, वे पर्याप्त नहीं हैं, क्योंकि जो स्थिति सरकार को विरासत में मिली है, वह काफ़ी गंभीर थी। इस बार मुझे टोका नहीं गया। धन्यवाद। लेकिन अब यह कहने से काम नहीं चलेगा क्योंकि जो स्थिति मिली है, उसमें से स्थिति को

[श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

कैसे सुधारा जाय, इसके लिए कदम उठाये जायें ।

मेरा निवेदन है कि जिस तरह की नीतियां बनाई गई हैं और उनमें एक बड़ा कारण है बजट और बजट में लादे गये कर-भार । केन्द्रीय बजट में 1,790 करोड़ रुपए के नए कराधान थे । रेलवे बजट में 470 करोड़ रुपए यात्री-किराए और मालभाड़े की दर से वसूल किये गये । पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के फुटकर मूल्यों में वृद्धि की गई । हम जो क्रूड-आयल बाहर से मंगाते हैं उसके आयात शुल्क में भी वृद्धि की गई जिससे 834 करोड़ रुपए का सरकार ने धन अर्जित किया । राज्य सरकारों ने टैक्स लगाये हैं । अलग-अलग बिजली बोर्डों ने बिजली की दरों में वृद्धि की है, इनका भी असर हुआ है । यद्यपि उस समय वित्त मंत्रालय की ओर से यह दावा किया गया था कि दाम बढ़ेंगे तो नाम मात्र के लिए बढ़ेंगे । रेलवे बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष ने तो जीरो, जीरो, जीरो का हिसाब लगा कर कुछ आंकड़े पेश किये थे, लेकिन सरकार यह स्वीकार करेगी कि इसका भी मूल्य वृद्धि पर असर हुआ है ।

यह ठीक है कि सरकार का उत्तर होगा कि घाटा हमें बहुत मिला था और घाटे के कारण मुद्रास्फीति होती है और उस पर काबू करने के लिए और घाटे को कम करने के लिए यह आवश्यक था । लेकिन अगर मूल्य बढ़ाये गए थे, कर बढ़ाये गये थे तो फिर दूसरे उपाय अपनाए जाने चाहिए थे जिससे कि जीवनोपयोगी वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में वृद्धि न होती । मैं बार-बार जीवनोपयोगी वस्तुओं के मूल्यों का सवाल उठा रहा हूं—आम आदमी के काम में आने वाली चीजें । मेरे पास आंकड़े हैं, मैं आंकड़े देकर अपने भाषण को भारी नहीं बनाना चाहता । दाल के भाव बढ़े हैं । खाने के तेल के दाम में दस रुपए की वृद्धि हुई है एक छोटे से टिन के ऊपर सीमेंट के भाव बढ़े हैं । चाय के दाम बढ़े हैं । इन वस्तुओं के मूल्यों की वृद्धि आम आदमी के बजट को बिगाड़ रही है, पारिवारिक जीवन को अस्त व्यस्त कर रही है । नमक भी महंगा हुआ है । मैं दाल की बात इसलिए कर रहा था कि दाल गरीब का खाना है, उसमें प्रोटीन है और दाल में यह शक्ति है कि अगर बिना बुलाए मेहमान घर में आ जायें तो जल की मात्रा बढ़ा कर मेहमानों का संतोष किया जा सकता है । यह क्षमता और किसी खाद्य पदार्थ में नहीं है ।

प्रधान मंत्री (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) : कभी-कभी उसमें काला भी होता है ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : दाल में काला होता है, मगर पूरी दाल काली न हो जाय मुझे इसका डर पैदा हो रहा है ।

श्री माखन लाल फोतेदार (उत्तर प्रदेश) : नमक भी होता है ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : श्री फ़ोतेदार नमक की बात कर रहे थे । नमक का महत्व है, मगर फ़ोतेदार साहब, एक उम्र के बाद नमक थोड़ा कम खाना चाहिए ।

महोदया, आम आदमी के काम में आने वाली चीजें महंगी हो रही हैं । यह ठीक है, जैसा मैंने उल्लेख किया, कि सरकार ने कदम उठाये हैं, प्रधान मंत्री चिंतित हैं, मगर मुख्य मंत्रियों को उन्होंने जो पत्र लिखा उसका नतीजा क्या निकला ? सरकारी खर्च में कमी करने की बात चल रही है, गुंजाइश भी है । कीमतों के बारे में हमें बताया गया था कि कहीं मानिटरिंग हो रहा है, कोई बैठा-बैठा देख रहा है कि दाम कितने बढ़ रहे हैं, कितने चढ़ रहे हैं ।

महोदया, दामों के ऊपर न्यूटन का सिद्धान्त लागू नहीं होता । न्यूटन का सिद्धान्त यह है कि जो ऊपर जाता है वह नीचे आता है, मगर हमारे दामों पर यह सिद्धांत लागू नहीं होता, वह अगर एक बार ऊपर चले गये तो फिर ऊपर, ऊपर, ऊपर ही रहते हैं । अब इस मानिटरिंग का नतीजा क्या निकला ?

चीनी के बारे में मैं जानता हूं कि चीनी के बारे में सरकार ने फ़ैसला किया है कि अगर चीनी रिलीज कर दी जाती है फ्री सेल के लिए, वह अगर बेची नहीं जाती है तो उसको लेवी शुगर में बदल दिया जाये । परिणाम क्या हुआ ? सीमेंट के बारे में सरकार ने कदम उठाये थे । सीमेंट निर्माताओं ने कीमतें कम करने का आश्वासन दिया था, मगर मुझे देखकर ताज्जुब हुआ कि दिल्ली के सुपर बाजार में सीमेंट की बोरी मिल रही है 80 रुपए में और बाजार में मिल रही है 91 रुपए में और उपभोक्ता 91 रुपए में खरीद रहे हैं। क्या इसका कारण यह है कि सुपर बाजार के आगे लम्बी लाइन लगती है ? इसके साथ वितरण की समस्या भी जुड़ी हुई है, इसकी ओर भी सदन का ध्यान दिलाना चाहूंगा ।

महोदया, एक बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि वित्त मंत्री महोदय ने इस बात का आश्वासन दिया था कि सरकार देश के भीतर और देश के बाहर कितना कर्जा ले सकता है, इसके बारे में कोई सीमारेखा निर्धारित करने के बारे में वह विचार करेंगे । वित्त मंत्री महोदय ने आश्वासन दिया था कि वह आर्टिकल 292 को लागू करने के बारे में विचार करेंगे । लेकिन अभी तक इस दिशा में कोई कदम नहीं उठाया गया है ।

मुझे बताया गया है कि हमारा देश रोज 120 करोड़ रुपए के कर्जे में डूब रहा है । यह श्री नाना पालकीवाला के आंकड़े है और मैं समझता हूं, सही हैं । इतना कर्जा कैसे बढ़ रहा है ? क्या कर्जे की कोई सीमारेखा नहीं होनी चाहिए ? क्या सरकार को इस मामले में संसद के सामने नहीं आना चाहिए ? धन अगर उत्पादक कामों में खर्च हो तो हमें आपत्ति नहीं है, लेकिन यदि अनुत्पादक कामों में खर्च हो तो ? इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि वित्त मंत्री महोदय इस चर्चा का जवाब देते समय यह बताएं कि पिछले कुछ महीनों में सरकार के अनुत्पादक व्यय को कम करने में कितनी सफलता मिली है, इसके बारे में सदन के सामने आंकड़े रखें, सदन को विश्वास में लें ।

महोदया, हमारे सामने आज एक गहरा आर्थिक संकट है । अब मैं राजनीति से ऊपर उठकर बात करना चाहती हूं । आरोप-प्रत्यारोप चलेंगे मगर विश्व की परिस्थिति जिस तरह से बदली है उसमें हमारे लिए विदेशों से सहायता प्राप्त करना भी कम होने वाला है । जो औद्योगिक देश हैं उनके लिए पूरा यूरोप बाजार के रूप में प्रस्तुत हो गया है । वे हमारे यहां पूंजी लगाने के लिए अधिक आकृष्ट नहीं होंगे जिससे विदेशी बाजार में हमारे माल की प्रतियोगिता बढ़ेगी । इसलिए माल के उत्पादन पर नजर उसकी उत्पादकता पर नजर, गुणवत्ता पर नजर, जिससे कि हम विदेशी मुद्रा कमा सकें और घाटे को कम कर सकें। इसके लिए देश में जो एक आर्थिक अनुशासन की भावना चाहिए, वह अनुशासन की भावना अभी नहीं है ।

मेरे सामने श्री साल्वे बैठे है, वह फाइनेंस कमीशन के अध्यक्ष थे । राज्यों की मांगें बढ़ रही हैं, राज्यो की जिम्मदारियां भी बढ़ रही हैं । वे नए टैक्स लगाते हैं, मगर लगाने में उन्हें संकोच होता है । यहां एक बात मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि राज्यों के बिजली बोर्ड जिस तरह से काम कर रहे हैं, उसमें परिवर्तन होना चाहिए । मुझे बताया गया है कि बिजली बोर्डों के ऊपर रेलवे का करीब 800 करोड़ रुपया बकाया है । रेलवे कोयला ढोती है, वह बिजली घरों में जाता है, उससे बिजली बनती है, राज्यों के उद्योग, राज्यो की खेती पनपती है मगर रेलवे के 800 करोड़ रुपए बिजली बोर्ड वापस नहीं कर रहे हैं । यह कैसे चलेगा ? बिजली बोर्डों को सुधारना होगा । रेलवे का जो देय है, उसे वापस करना होगा । इस तरह की जिम्मेदारियां एक दूसरे को निभानी पड़ेंगी । इसके लिए आवश्यकता है एक आर्थिक अनुशासन की, लेकिन हम देखते

[श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

राजनीति में इतना डूबे हुए हैं कि कुछ आवश्यक समस्याएं हमारी आंखों से ओझल हो रही हैं ।

महोदया, मूल्यों के बारे में मैं एक बुनियादी बात उठाना चाहता हूं । किसान के साथ न्याय हो, किसान को उसकी फसल का लाभप्रद मूल्य मिले, यह सारा सदन चाहता है, यह देश चाहता है । यह किसी एक व्यक्ति की नीति नहीं है, यह हमारी सामूहिक नीति है, मिली-जुली नीति है और इसी बात को ध्यान में रखकर गेहूं और चावल के दाम बढ़े हैं। लेकिन किसान केवल उत्पादक नहीं है, उपभोक्ता भी है । गेहूं और चावल की कीमत थोड़ा बढ़ाकर उसे जो प्राप्त हुआ है, वह अन्य उपभोग वस्तुओं की बढ़ती हुई कीमतों के कारण व्यर्थ हो गया है।

अब एक कमीशन है--एग्रीकल्चरल कास्ट एंड प्राइस कमीशन । पहले खाली प्राइस की बात होती थी, कास्ट का उसमें समावेश नहीं था । नाम बदला गया । कमीशन को यह जिम्मेदारी सौंपी गई और वह अपने दायित्व का पालन कर रहा है। वह द्यौरे में जाकर देखता है । उसकी रिपोर्ट सदन में आती है, सार्वजनिक बनती है । मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि वह जो बड़े-बड़े उद्योगपति रोजमर्रा के काम आने वाली चीजें तैयार कर रहे हैं इनकी लागत, इनकी कीमत, इन पर कमाया जाने वाला मुनाफा क्या इसका कोई हिसाब है ? उस दिन खुले मंच पर वित्त मंत्री महोदय कह रहे थे और मैं तो सुनकर चकित रह गया, अवाक रह गया । वह कह रहे थे कि औद्योगिक वस्तुओं के दामों पर हम ठीक तरह से विचार करते हैं और औद्योगिक वस्तुओं के दाम बहुत सोच समझकर निर्धारित किये जाते हैं । मुझे इसका कोई प्रमाण नहीं मिला ।

मैं काफी समय से यह सवाल उठा रहा हूं कि बाजार में जो स्कूटर 12 हजार, 13 हजार रुपये में बिकता है उसका लागत मूल्य क्या है ? जो कम्पनियां हैं... **(व्यवधान)**

श्री विट्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव (महाराष्ट्र) : नोट मोर दन 4 थाऊजेंड।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : नहीं 4 थाऊजेंड नहीं । जाधव साहब, आपने हिसाब नहीं लगाया है । उसका मूल्य 20 परसेंट लाभ जोड़कर 7 हजार से ज्यादा नहीं होना चाहिये । हमने इस पर काम किया है । अगर कोई कहे कि आपके आंकड़े ठीक नहीं हैं और हम आपके सामने बैलेंस शीट रखने को तैयार हैं तो उसे देखा जा सकता है। मगर उद्योगपति बैलेंस शीट रखने को तयार नहीं और सरकार उन्हें विवश करने को तैयार नहीं है कि बैलेंस शीट रखे । यही पुरानी सरकार कर रही थी। यही नयी सरकार कर रही है । कभी-कभी मुझे लगता है कि सरकारें सब एक सी चलती हैं... **(व्यवधान)**

एक सम्मानित सदस्य : आपके मुंह में घी शक्कर ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मुझे फिर भी भरोसा नहीं है... **(व्यवधान)**

एक सम्मानित सदस्य : यह तो आप ही चला रहे हैं... **(व्यवधान)**

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अब यह देखिये आपने फिर टोकना शुरु कर दिया। महोदया, मैं कह रहा था कि कुछ मामलों में सरकारों का चाल-चलन एक सा होता है ।

श्री सत्य पाल मित्तल (नाम निर्देशित) : नहीं साहब सुनिये,

"खूब पर्दा है कि चिलमन से लगे बैठे हैं,
साफ़ छुपते भी नहीं सामने आते भी नहीं ।"

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : वल्लाह-वल्लाह-वल्लाह, इरशाद-इरशाद एक और हो जाये ।

एक सम्मानित सदस्य : टोका-टाकी तो आप बर्दाश्त करते हैं परन्तु लीपापोती ... **(व्यवधान)**

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अगर कोई गंदा कर गया है तो लीपापोती तो करनी पड़ेगी ।

महोदया, मैं एक गंभीर प्रश्न उठा रहा हूं, मैं आपका इसमें समर्थन चाहता हूं । भूल जाइये पुरानी सरकार ने क्या किया ? औद्योगिक मालों का मूल्य किस आधार पर तय होगा ? औद्योगिक माल किस आधार पर बाजार में बिकेगा ? जिस टूथ ब्रुश की लागत एक रुपया 10 पैसा है वह तीन रुपये में, साढ़े तीन रुपये में किस हिसाब से बिक रहा है ? मेरे पास और भी आंकड़े हैं—चाय में, सीमेंट में । महोदया, चाय और सीमेंट के जब आंकड़े तैयार होते हैं और उस समय जो गड़बड़ होती है, थोड़ी सी गड़बड़ वह दूरगामी परिणाम पैदा करती है । हमारी मांग है—एक ब्यूरो बना हुआ है—ब्यूरो फार इंडस्ट्रीयल कास्ट एंड प्राइसेस । मगर उसकी रिपोर्ट सार्वजनिक नहीं की जाती, वह रिपोर्ट सार्वजनिक होनी चाहिये ।

सरकार विचार करे कि क्या एग्रीकलचरल प्राडक्ट के लिये जैसा कमीशन बनाया है क्या इंडस्ट्रियल गुड्स के लिये ऐसा कमीशन बनाना उचित नहीं होगा ? उचित मुनाफ़ा कमाया जाये मगर अनाप-शनाप मुनाफ़ा बंद होना चाहिये । देश में लूट की छूट है । इसमें सरकार भी अपने दायित्व का पालन नहीं कर रही है। गेहूं का दाम बढ़ाया—कितना बढाया ? मगर आटे के दाम में जितना बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है उसका गेहूं के बढ़े हुये दाम से कोई मेल नहीं और सरकार भी आटे के जो मिल चलाती है उसका भी वही हाल है । सरकार कह सकती है कि हमें बाजार भाव से चलना है नहीं तो घाटा होगा । घाटा होगा तो एक और कठिनाई पैदा होगी । हम एक ऐसे विषय चक्र में फंस गये हैं जिसका कोई हल नहीं है । मेरा निवेदन कि किसान को लाभप्रद मूल्य मिलना चाहिये लेकिन रोजमर्रा के काम में आने वाली उद्योगों में बनी हुई चीजों का दाम उचित हो । मुनाफ़ा तो होना चाहिए मुनाफ़ा के बिना कोई उद्योग नहीं चल सकता, लेकिन मुनाफ़ा अनाप-शनाप नहीं ।

सौन्दर्य के प्रसाधन बनाने वाली कम्पनियां पांच सौ परसेंट मुनाफ़ा कमा रही हैं और अपनी रिपोर्ट में घोषित कर रही हैं। टेलीविजन पर विज्ञापन भी दे रही हैं । क्या विज्ञापन के साथ उसकी कीमत नहीं आनी चाहिये ? टेलीविजन पर विज्ञापन का ऐसा असर हो रहा है, देश में कंज्यूमरिज्म इस तरह से बढ़ रहा है कि जो व्यक्ति कीमतों के मारे परेशान हैं वह भी अपने बेटे या बिटिया को टेलीविजन पर बहुप्रचारित शैम्पू खरीदने से रोक नहीं सकते । उसको खरीदने के लिए जब बेटा या बिटिया जाती है तो वे दाम नहीं पूछते क्योंकि उसकी आंखों में वह टेलीविजन पर आने वाली सुन्दर मुद्रा झलकती है ।

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : आप बड़े भाग्यशाली हैं कि आपने शादी नहीं की । रो तो हम रहे हैं जो रोज बच्चे मांग रहे हैं ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : आप खाली हो रहे हैं या आनन्द भी उठा रहे हैं ? **(व्यवधान)** महोदया, मेरा निवेदन है कि यह मांग बहुत पहले से हो रही है कि एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोड्यूस और इंडस्ट्रीयल गुड्स की प्राइसेज में कोई पैरिटी होनी चाहिए, कोई समानता होनी चाहिए, कोई सम्बन्ध तो होना चाहिए । आज कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है ।

मैंने वित्त मंत्री जी को बढ़ते हुए मूल्यों के बारे में पत्र लिखा था । उन्होंने मुझे लिखा कि हमने मंत्रिमंडल के सदस्यों की एक समिति बनाई है जो कीमतों पर विचार कर रही है । बहुत अच्छी बात है । मगर समिति की रिपोर्ट कहां है । समिति ने कौन से कदम सुझाए हैं और उन कदमों का क्या प्रभाव पड़ा है ?

श्री जगेश देसाई : दाम बढ़ाने में ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : दाम घटाने में । स्थिति चिंताजनक है । उस स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए जहां दूरगामी उपायों की आवश्यकता है वहां तात्कालिक उपाय भी चाहिएं । मुझे सरकार से शिकायत है । आपको विदेशी मुद्रा का घाटा कम करना है । इसलिए विदेशों से सामान मंगाने के बारे में आप थोड़ा कड़ाई बरत रहे हैं, लेकिन क्या यह आवश्यक था कि इस बात की पहले से घोषणा कर दी जाती कि हम खाने का तेल बाहर से नहीं मंगायेंगे ? क्या इसके कारण जो तेल का भंडार करते हैं, जो दाम बढ़ा कर लाभ उठाते हैं क्या उनको भरोसा नहीं हो गया है कि तेल बाहर से आने वाला नहीं है, जो देश में तेल उपलब्ध है वह कम है । अब उचित दाम पर भेजने की क्या आवश्यकता है ? मान लीजिए सरकार ने भीतर फ़ैसला कर लिया था मगर व्यापारियों पर और उद्योगपतियों पर यह धाक रहनी चाहिए कि अगर परिस्थिति का लाभ उठा कर उपभोक्ता को आवश्यकता से अधिक परेशान किया गया तो सरकार बाहर से मंगा भी सकती है । कम से कम एक रणनीति के रूप में इसका प्रयोग करना चाहिए था । लेकिन सरकार कहती है हम बाहर से नहीं मंगायेंगे । जरूरत कैसे पूरी होगी ? खाद्य तेल की मांग तो बढ़ गयी है और लोगों की आदतें बिगड़ गयी हैं । पहले सरसों का तेल खाते थे, तिल्ली का तेल खाते थे, मूंगफ़ली का तेल खाते थे और अब रिफ़ाइन्ड ऑयल चाहिए ।

वितरण में कहां गड़बड़ी हो रही है इसका मैं एक उदाहरण देना चाहता हूं । खाद्य तेल के दाम बढ़ गये और सरकार बाहर से मंगा रही है ऑयल-पामोलीन ।

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): Vajpayeeji, may I just say, it is not true that we are not importing oil. We are importing palm oil.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मैं इसी पर आ रहा था । पामोलीन मंगाया जा रहा है जो वेजीटेबल ऑयल से सस्ता है लेकिन उसके वितरण की व्यवस्था ठीक नहीं है । उपभोक्ता को मिलने के बजाय वह ढाबा चलाने वालों को मिल रहा है, होटल चलाने वालों को मिल रहा है । हम स्वयं उसके भुक्त भोगी हैं । पिछले तीन हफ्ते से मैं पामोलीन खरीदवाने की कोशिश कर रहा हूं । मेरा कर्मचारी जाता है तो वह कहते हैं खत्म हो गया । कब आया और कब खत्म हो गया ? जब आया ही नहीं तो खत्म कैसे हो गया ? अगर आया तो कहां आया मैंने अपने कर्मचारी को यह कहा था कि तुम अपने को नहीं बताना कि कहां से आये हो । जा कर खड़े हो जाओ, लाइन में खड़े हो जाओ, पता लगेगा । हम भी मोनीटरिंग करते हैं, क्योंकि हम इस सरकार का भला चाहते हैं ।

श्री माखन लाल फोतेदार : या लोगों का.... **(व्यवधान)**

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : हम दोनों बात चाहते हैं और आप एक बात चाहते हैं । **(व्यवधान)** जब उन्हें पता लगा तो मुझे बताया गया कि आप टेलीफोन कर दीजिए, जो सामान आपको चाहिए हम आपके घर में भेज देंगे । यह ठीक नहीं है । सरकार वितरण की व्यवस्था को और सुदृढ़ करे, प्रभावी बनाये ।

जहां दुकानें नहीं हैं वहां दुकानें खुलें, उन दुकानों पर मिलने वाली चीजों की संख्या बढ़ायें । दालों को शामिल करो, खाद्य तेलों को शामिल करो, साबुन को शामिल करो और यह व्यवस्था हमेशा चलनी चाहिए । यह कोई फायर वर्क की तरह से नहीं होना चाहिए कि आग बुझ गई तो दुकान नहीं खुलेंगी, दुकान खुलेंगी तो ठीक तरह से नहीं चलेंगी । व्यवस्था ठीक होनी चाहिए । इसमें ढिलाई हो रही है । ढिलाई का एक कारण यह भी है कि जब पैदावार बढ़ जाती है और अभाव नहीं रहता है तो वितरण व्यवस्था की ओर से दृष्टि ओझल हो जाती है । ऐसा होना नहीं चाहिए । अर्थव्यवस्था के जिस दौर

में हम गुजर रहे हैं उसमें किसी भी चीज का अभाव हो सकता है। मैं अभी लखनऊ गया था। वहां पर आयल सीड्स पर अनुसंधान करने वाली एक संस्था है। वे कहते हैं कि दालों के मामले में हम कोई बकथू नहीं कर सके हैं। चने के भाव कितने बढ़ गये हैं? गरीब कैसे पेट भरेगा? वितरण व्यवस्था को और सुदृढ़ करिये, दुकान ठीक तरह से चले, इसका प्रबन्ध करिये। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि मुख्य मंत्रियों ने क्या सुझाव दिये हैं?

महोदया, यह भी जरूरी है कि देश के सामने जो मूल्यों का संकट है, उसको हल करने के लिए, प्रदर्शन तो हम करते हैं, मांग उठाते हैं, लोकतंत्र में उसका स्थान है, लेकिन अगर सरकार कोई रचनात्मक सहयोग चाहती है तो सरकार बताये, हम इस मामले में रचनात्मक सहयोग के लिए भी तैयार हैं। मुझे विश्वास है कि प्रतिपक्ष के हमारे मित्र भी इस संबंध में हाथ बढ़ाएंगे। स्थिति संकटपूर्ण है। किसी तरह की असावधानी घातक सिद्ध होगी। लोगों को तत्काल राहत की जरूरत है। दूरगामी दृष्टि से ऐसे उपाय अपनाये कि घाटा कम हो, मुद्रास्फीति घटे और देश इस संकट में से सफलतापूर्वक निकल जाये। अभी जो इराक और कुवैत का झगड़ा हो गया है, स्वाभाविक है उससे चिन्ता है। यद्यपि सरकारी प्रवक्ता कहते हैं कि उसका आपूर्ति पर कोई असर नहीं होगा, लेकिन असर होगा। अगर यह झगड़ा बढ़ गया तो? सारी दुनिया के परिपेक्ष्य में हम देखें तो जो हमारी आर्थिक स्थिति है वह बहुत से तत्वों पर निर्भर करती है। लेकिन जो शक्तियां, जो तत्व, हमारे बूते में हैं उनके बारे में कड़ाई से कदम उठाने चाहिए, प्रभावी कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए। मुझे विश्वास है कि यह चर्चा अच्छे वातावरण में होगी। सरकार पर आवश्यकता हो तो जरूर प्रहार किया जाय। मैं भी प्रहार करने में कोई कसर नहीं करता हूं, लेकिन उसके साथ साथ दृष्टि रचनात्मक होनी चाहिए।

महोदया, मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं। आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. S. B. Chavan.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Madam Deputy Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity after Mr. Vajpayee who spoke on a very important issue which, in fact, is above politics, as he has stated. We certainly agree with this point of view that this issue has to be considered not from a political angle, but from the point of view of seeing that we are able to improve the situation. But, at the same time, I would like to remind honourable Vajpayeeji and also our friends on the left....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am on your left!

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: ....that they are, in fact, very emphatic on this issue. Mr. Vajpayee spoke as if he belongs to the Opposition. He is also aware of the fact that the present Government is in existence because of the support given by these political praties. I do not want that he should withdraw the support. But, at the same time, your support also has to be exercised in such a manner that on important and vital issues that you can bring about the kind of change that you have in your view. If you cannot bring about the kind of change that you have in your view, then what is the idea of supporting the Government from outside? And that is certainly a matter in which we would like to be enlightened. I think you will please try to understand the gravity of the situation and the role that those who are supporting his Government have to play. I am not requesting for a movement to withdraw support and see that the Government falls. Certainly we are not interested in that kind of thing. But at the same time if supporting from outside means, 'Do anything, we will just speak out and then keep quiet about the whole thing' then you will excuse me if I say that you are equally responsible for bringing about that kind of situation. (*Interruptions*). You cannot then run away from the fact, 'We spoke on the

[Shri S. B. Chavan]

subject, we were serious about it, we pointed out all the drawbacks in the working of the Government, but since we were committed to supporting the Government, that is why we had hardly any option; we have to support the Government whatever they might do. (*Interruptions*) I am happy that you have raised that issue Mr. Sukomal Sen. Is that the objective because of which you are supporting the Government? At least I was under the impression that you have a larger interest of the people at heart. I am happy that you have divulged the secret that actually that is the only thing because of which you are supporting the present Government. If that be so, then why unnecessarily show sympathy with the people, because so long as we are sitting in the Opposition you need not worry about the whole thing. You just keep quiet. Why unnecessarily give expression to your views: No, no, our sympathies are with the people. This kind of double attitude, this kind of double standard, is ultimately not going to help any political party. That is why I started the whole thing by saying that this is a non-political issue. From the country's point of view, people's interest point of view, you have to have the larger interest in view, and then if you have the lever, try to use that lever in such a manner that ultimately it should result into helping poorer sections. But if every time you are going ot say the same thing, 'this is the legacy that we have brought', then unfortunately, I think, this has become a very old record now. This is not going ot click with any one. The people have brought about this change, and after the change if you are going to repeat the same argument, I don't think that it is going to be in the interest of the people at large. They are interested in finding out how you are going to rescue the people from the difficult situation that they are facing.

Hon. Shri Vajpayeeji gave details about the prce rise in different items. I have got the figures for December 1989 and I have got the figures for May 1990. What is the change that we find in a week's time? In the case of certain items like castor oil it is ten rupees in a week; that much price rise is there. In the case of castor seed oil there is a rise of ten rupees. In the case of seisam it is sixty-five rupees, in a week-per 100 kgs. There are a number of items. If anybody is interested, I can show it. I do not want to burden the House with all the details that we have.

Is it the claim of the Government that when they gave an assurance in their election manifesto that when they come to power they are going to reduce the prices? Is it the claim of the Government that they were not aware that inflation trends are there in the economy or that deficit-financing of a particular order was prevalent in the economy? Internationally, you also know about the kind of foreign assistance that we can possibly except. Balance of payments position is, in fact, not very happy. Is it for the first time that you are coming to know that these things are prevailing in the economy? Konwing full-well that these factors are ob taining, you have given a promise to the people that you are going to reduce the prices after you come to power. Now it is not merely a party menifesto. This has been converted into a Government action plan now. After it as been mentioned in the Presidet's Address and after it has been mentioned in the Finance Minister's speech, it does not remain a party programme. It becomes a Governmet programme. Thereafter, we are interested to know what is the kind of action plan that you have in view? I am sure that those who have given the promise knew that it was not a frivolous thing that they were talking about. They were serious about it. They felt that the prices ruling in the market are very

high beyond the reach of an ordinary person. In spite of the bumper crop consecutively for the last three years, how are you going to justify the increase in all the food items, increase in oilseeds and increase in the prices of other commodities which has taken place? At a particular time, I was holding the view—and I still have that view—that in the agricultural sector if you have to increase the prices beyond a particular level, it is bound to have a cascading effect and lead to inflationary pressures I have also gone through the items which are industrial products. In spite of the BICP which is in existence and which is supposed to justify as to what the basis is on which you are allowing the industrial manufactures to increase the prices, there is an increase of 50 per cent, 60 per cent, 70 per cent, 100 per cent, 200 per cent and 500 per cent. Still everybody is very happy. We have been thinking that if the agricultural price is to be increased by about Rs. 50/- and since it is going to have a cascading effect, let us reconsider the whole thing. Vajpayeeji is very right so far as the industrial goods are concerned. We must also know what is the cost of production, what is the percentage of profit that they are charging. If it is beyond a reasonable limit, what is the action that the Government proposes to take in the matter? Is there a co-relation between the two or not? Or is it that the industrial goods have no relevance so far as the agricultural prices are concerned? If the agriculturists were to suffer because of the imbalances then I won't blame the agriculturists if they ask for price rise for agricultural produce. They are fully justified. If the industrial sector is getting away with 500 per cent price rise, then the agricultural sector will ask for price rise If you ask the agriculutral sector that they should sacrifice for country's sake. I don't think you will be justified in asking for that kind of a sacrifice from the agricultural sector only. An integrated view will have to be taken. Agrculture and industry are co-related and that is why you have to have an integrated policy so that both the industrial sector as well as the agricultural sector are in a position to keep their industry running and nobody should have a feeling that they are suffering merely because nobody seems to be sympathetic towards a particular section. Why is it that everytime the people had to say that the Government is not very sympathetic so far as the agricultural sector is concerned? People have been saying this everytime. It is because of the fact that everyday they see that the industrialists are getting away with huge amounts of profits while the agricultural sector is not getting even the barest minimum. I don't know what is the logic behind the whole thing. This might be one of the considerations that the Government might be having in view to waive the loans which were given to the agricultural sector. I would like to say something about this. Madam, 1.00 P.M. when the scheme was announced on the floor of the House, it was stated that the entire amount of money which is going to be waived is going to be of the order of Rs. 2,800 crores. I saw the other day on the television. The Finance Minister had an open house. A number of questions were put to him. One very innocent person from the rural area put one of the questions. One lady has asked: How is it that you are saying that the coffers are empty and still you are talking of waiver of loans? What is the relation between the two? The Finance Minister was flabbergasted. He had no reply to the question. And he evaded the question. They have given a different kind of answers which in fact had no relevance whatsoever with the kind of quesetions which were put to him.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE (Maharashtra): The programme is a hoax.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I was myself surprised when the Finance Minister was saying that he wants to give instructions to the banks and that

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he will see to it that before the kharif season starts, these instructions reach to the concerned banks. I do not know whether Mr. Madhu Dandavate is aware of the fact that the kharif season is almost half-over now. It is not to start now. If it is to start, it is for the next year. For this year, kharif season is already half over. And you are still talking in terms of sending instructions to the banks. This morning, I came to know that there is a judgement by the Madhya Pradesh High Court. And the High Court has given a stay order saying that the cultivators who are defaulters and who have not paid to the bank will not be entitled for any kind of fresh credit. So, this is the blanket ban that they have put. The State Government are supposed to pay to the bank the entire amount of money which the cultivators have defaulted. And since the State Government have not paid the money, the High Court has given a stay order that no fresh credit need to be given. Now, we are talking in terms of increasing our agricultural production to about 185 million tonnes or so. If the basic necessity is not being provided to the cultivators, what is the basis on which the Government is thinking that we are going to increase the agricultural production? So, there is something basically wrong. Mr. Dandavate has been repeatedly saying, 'Mr. Chavan, you are unnecessarily putting all kinds of suspicions in the minds of the people.' Certainly, I am not interested in creating any kind of suspicious atmosphre. But I know too a fact that the Government or of Reserve Bank gave his assessment of the total amount of financial liability which the Government will have to shell out. And that liability was, according to them, of the order of Rs. 14,000 crores. *(Interruption)*. He said now that there are a number of permutations and combination. Certainly we are interested in finding out what are those permutations and combinations that the Government has worked due to which it has come to Rs. 2,800 crores.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Just on a point of information. In the whole of Maharashtra State, the refinance has not been started at all. Half of the kharif season is over. Today only I am coming from my disrtict from where Mr. Chavan also comes. And the farmers are restless. They are getting neither the fertilizers nor any other facilities.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: If I am allowed to say, it is a total fraud played on the people. You have promised something and you are not able to do the same. You must calculate the whole thing before you promise anything to the cultivators. In the month of August, if we are going to be told that you are still going to give instructions to the people, that means, you have not done your exercises, your home work was not fully done. You have announced the scheme. And now you are doing the home work. This is the kind of attitude that we find. I am sorry to say that this clearly shows the kind of attitude that the Government has adopted so far as the cultivators are concerned. And that is why I was saying that the loan waiver scheme which in fact was of the order of Rs. 2,800 crores—he himself has said that the amount has been increased; whatever be the amount of loan, the person will be entitled for Rs. 10,000 relief—has now gone to Rs. 4,000 or 4,400 crores. I read one thing in the newspapers. I do not know how far it is correct. Addressing his party workers at Ahmednagar or Aurangabad, Mr. Madhu Dandavate was reported to have said that these will be worked out by the *patwaris*. If they are not proper, they will be reviewed. This is another uncertain factor he has added. If this is the procedure to be adopted, I am sure, during the course of the entire regime of the Janata Dal Government, this programme will never be implemented.

AN HON. MEMBER: If the Government continues.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: What is the point in saying all kinds of things when you know, as a matter of fact, that you will not be in a positon to implement any of these things?

Earlier, I raised this point. I am sure, everybody will appreciate it. The hon. Minister, Mr. Paswan, gave an assurance that a Constitution (Amendment) Bill would be introduced in the House and the right to work would be guaranteed under the Constitution. Mr. Dipen Ghosh is aware of this. At that time, when I asked, he said 'No, this is a dilution of the understanding that we had with the Janata Dal Government. In the President's Address, it has been stated'.

Now, a Constitution (Amendment) Bill in this regard is to be brought forward. According to Mr. Paswan I have not myself calculated it — the amount would come to Rs. 69,000 crores. Rs. 69,000 crores! Mr. Madhu Dandavate says 'No, in one year, we cannot possibly do it; it will be phased out over three-four years'. Very good. Even on that basis, where does he want to start? In the drought prone areas and in areas where the concentration of agricultural workers is more. These are the two areas where he would like to start this programme. This is not going to be duplication of the drought-prone area programme. This is beyond the DPAP. They will have to provide work to all these people. Do you understand what is going to be the financial implication of starting this kind of scheme? After you amend the Constitution, guaranteeing this as a kind of fundamental right, people would ask for work. I do not know what limitations are going to be worked out. Everybody will be entitled to this right and it will certainly be justiciable. Everybody will be entitled to go to court and have this right enforced. Everybody will be entitled to get work. They will say 'If you are not going to provide us with work, you will have to pay us compensation for the same'. I am sure, before making the statement, he must have thought over the matter as to what would be the implications of the promise which he is making. I do not think anybody seems to have worked out implications of this measure. On the spur of the moment, they announce schemes and say that they are going to do this, that and the other. It is part of your election manifesto. It is also mentioned in the President's Address. Therefore, how, you have hardly any option. Then, you complain that the deficit financing is on the increase.

These are non-Plan expenditures. You are adding one thing more. Your schemes involving non-Plan expenditure are on the increase on the one hand. One the other, you are sending a circular to all the Ministries that they will have to reduce their expenditure by 10 per cent. Non-Plan expenditure consists of payment of interest, food and fertiliser subsidies, defence expenditure, administrative expenditure and the assistance given to the State Governments. These are the five items which are covered under non-Plan expenditure. Now; if 10 per cent saving is to be effected whether it is Plan or non Plan it is a matter for the administrative Ministries. So far as the payment of salaries and other allowances is concerned almost every three or four months you have to pay additional instalments of dearness allowance. You have provided only Rs. 1000 crores in the Budget for this purpose. But even one instalment would mean Rs. 300—350 crores.

So, it is going to be a huge amount. By the nature of the scheme itself your provision is insufficient. So, your deficit is bound to increase. Added to that these are the new schemes which you go on announcing without providing for the same and still you would like everybody to believe that you are

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doing to contain the deficit and thereby see that the economy is brought on a proper keel.

The Finance Commission was at pains to explain the position obtaining in the States. As Vajpayeeji said very correctly, all the Electricity Boards, they are in the red. The Road Transport Corporations, they are making huge losses. The entire capital which was put in, it has totally gone out. There is hardly anything left and still we are continuing with this kind of Boards. Government is trying to give them a budgetary support. There after, if you see the working of the publice section undertakings of the Central Government and the State Governments taken together, the amount of loss that they are sustaining is of a very huge order. So, taken together the deficit financing that we are talking about, there is hardly any possibility of improving the economic situation. That is how the Finance Commission has also said about implementation of the recommendations. It is on page 64 of the Finance Commission's Report wherein it is said that "particular kind of discipline will have to be followed if these recommendatons are to be properly implemented". I have the report with me here.

But we are fully aware that these unpleasant decisions will have to be taken. There are no soft option available to us. Very hard decisions are required to be taken. The potential is there. There can be no doubt about it. But I do not think that the present Government is in a position to take any such hard decisions, If you do not take those decisions, you cannot talk in terms of reducing the prices which are now spirally sky high. There is hardly any possibility—from a pessimistic point of view because I cannot help it—because the kind of Government that we have today, it is impossible for them to take a normal decision. These are very hard decisions and in a disciplined atmosphere you will have to implement them. No administrative Ministry would like to take such a decision. Even in the Consultative Committee we were talking about the steps taken by the Petroleum Ministry in order to reduce the consumption of petrol and diesel. He said that 20 per cent reduction we have asked them to effect.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Railways also.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Yes, Railways 10 per cent and all the administrative Ministries 20 per cent. The total consumption of petrol products including the petrol and diesel by Government alone comes to almost 50 per cent of the entire consumption What is the saving that they would like to effect? It is 2.5 or 2.8 million tonnes of oil. If the Government itself is really serious about implementing the decisions, what is the mechanism that you have, to monitor this kind of system? Certainly, it is a very difficult task. No administrative Ministry is in a mood to effect this kind of a reduction. But, Mr. Gurupadaswamy is bound to go on repeating letters after letters. Those letters, I do not think, are going to be of such importance that your letter is going to be implemented by the administrative Ministry. Ultimately, a point will come where everybody will say that this is beyond us, we cannot possibly do this. Added to this difficulty, now there are two factors involved. One is the OPEC countries' decision to increase the price by 2 dollars per barrel and with the conflict to Iraq and Kuwait if the agreements are not honoured and if spot purchases have to be effected to..... then the price quoted will be beyond 20 dollars per barrel—or might be about 21—24 dollars. What is the kind of free foreign exchange available with you? It was 6,800 crores in 1989-90 and now the requirement seems to be about 8,800 crores or so. The Finance Ministry is asking them to keep it within 6.800. But within 6.200 crores, they find it extremely difficult to implement the same. Now with this price rise.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: It is 6,400 crores

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: If these two new factors have to be taken into account, then, of course, it is anybody's guess as to how you are going to face this situation of oil crisis in India. Almost 50 to 59 per cent of our requirement of oil is met domestically. The rest of it we have to import, and import at a very high cost. Where are the resources available with us? We do not have the money and it is going to be extremely difficult to face this kind of a situation. Certainly, we would like to understand from the Government what is the plan of action that they have in view. Merely saying that it is not going to have any effect on our oil production or oil situation as it is obtaining in the country is not going to satisfy anyone. At least, I have no doubt in my mind that you are going to face a tremendous amout of difficulty in meeting this kind of a situation which is beyond your control. You cannot help it. The Finance Ministry will not be in a position to give you foreign exchange and you will have to meet the requirements of the people. How you are going to meet this is a point on which certainly, as a layman, I would like to be informed and enlightened.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I appreciate the argument made by my friend, and he is right. I would like him to elaborate a little more. I am requesting him. It is a very serious matter. I appreciate his argument. There is no question of denying the fact that the crisis is going to be very very large in future. I would like him to elaborate his argument and tell us what steps could be taken in the circumstances so that we can have the benefit of his advice.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Mr. Gurupadaswamy, I have no objection to privately discussing with you. But I cannot be in your position to suggest that these are the measures that you should adopt tomorrow. That is why when you promised, I am sure you must be having in view the situation as it was prevailing and knowing full well that this was the situaton, you have promised that you will reduce the prices.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal): That would be constructive criticism on your part.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Very good, as if we are the only people left for giving constructive suggestions. There is nothing from your side, I believe.

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: From this side, everything will come.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Gujarat): You have to find another Bombay High.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: That is a long-term measure. So far as medium-term measures are concerned, at least I do not find any way out unless you were to come out with a definite plan of action and give an assurance to the people at large that you mean business on this and you are going to implement the decisions that we are putting before you. That has to be started with the Government itself. After that, certainly you have the right to go to other people and tell them, "we have followed this discipline, now it is your turn; you have to follow the same". I am sure the people will be able to cooperate with you provided they are convinced that whatever was expected of the Government has been done fully and thereafter you are approaching the people. That kind of a situation will have to be considered by the Government. And there is hardly any time. You are running short of time and I am sure you will be applying your mind very seriously and you will come before this Parliament to tell us as to what is that you would like to do in this matter. Now, Madam, I would like to again request my friend, Prof. Madhu Dandavate, because I have heard him in, what they call, "Open House" or *"Khula Manch"* over the T.V.... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: It was a fraud.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Therein he was all along saying when that lady asked him the question... (*Interruptions*)... You were not there and I did not want to trouble Mr. Anil Shastri...

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): You are talking about the lady on the T.V., no?

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: About industry and agriculture, Mr. Vajpayee has replied.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: In spite of your very light-hearted reference to that lady, you cannot evade the question in the House. You have evaded the question there, but you have to answer the question here in the House. It was publicized for almost a week on the TV that in spite of the coffers being empty, you had taken a decision to waive loans. The question was about that. I was myself very keen to find out what Prof. Madhu Dandavate had to say on the TV, in order to find out how, though the coffers are empty, he is going to provide this kind of a waiver. For almost 45 minutes I heard everything except this; there was nothing about it. Again the same old story: this is a legacy; there was deficit financing, this and that. The same old story which is being repeated day in and day out, *ad nauseam*, without giving their own plan of action and just passing the blame on to others and playing safe. I don't think it is ultimately going to help us. I was just referring to the loan waiver scheme. Since you were not there, I am sorry, I had to repent that point.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I know what you want to say.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I was saying about the judgement of the Madhya Pradesh High Court and the stay order they have granted. No credit for those cultivators who have defaulted money has not been deposited by the State Government! And you were now pleased to state....

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Maharashtra): Chavanji, it will be interesting to find out who has gone to the court.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Maybe the BJP!

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Your suspicion is that some Congressman must have gone ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It was a Congress MLA.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Even if it is a Congress MLA, the fact still remains that you are not able to implement the scheme. I also want to ask why a Congressman should not go to court. Is he disqualified or what? He is also a cultivator and if he doesn't get the assistance you have promised, he has a right to approach the court. And he has gone there.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: He is not a cultivator. He is a depositor in a cooperative bank. You don't know the case.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH (Maharashtra): It is not a Congress MLA. It is very easy to hurl an accusation. I can also say that it is a BJP MLA. What nonsense is this?

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : किसानों के रास्ते में अड़चन किसने डाली है ? किसानों के रास्ते अड़चन आपने डाली है ।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Why this controversy? Saying that any one is a Congressman is not at all some sort of an allegation. I don't think it is an allegation... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: This is again an evasion of the question. Certainly we are not interested about it whether he is a Congressman or a non-

Congressman. After you have announced the scheme, every one, including myself, has a right to tell you, "I have defaulted the payment and according to the scheme you have to shell out the money." You cannot possibly say, "Since you are a Congressman, you are not entitled to it." Can you say that?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: No.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: You cannot say that Congressmen are not entitled. Whether genuine or not, according to him, Congressmen are Congressmen and certainly they are entitled to get the kind of relief that he has promised.

SHRI MADAN BHATIA (Nominated): Madam, I may be permitted, if the honourable Member yields. The promise which was made by the National Front or the Janata Dal was that if they were put in power, their Government shall waive the loans, implying thereby that Government will take the responsibility, from its own coffers, in waiving the loans.

Now when the Government is unable fulfil its promise, the suggestion being made by the hon. Member is that the money deposited by the depositors should be filched and stolen in order to fulfil the promise which has been given by this Government to the agrculturists? Is this the approach which the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and the National Government, the Janata Government, are wanting to take?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: No.

SHRI MADAN BHATIA: To steal the money of the depositors to fulfil their electoral promises?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I agree with you, I fully agree with you.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I have a few more points to put before the House.

श्री हरवेंद्र सिंह हंसपाल (पंजाब) : चव्हाण साहब, इनको खरीफ के बारे में भी बता दीजिए ।

श्री एस. बी. चव्हाण : हां खरीफ का सीजन शुरू हो गया है । मंत्री जी ने कहा था कि सीजन से पहले . . . If I have understood you correctly, I think that was the impression that I got, that you were to send instructions to the banks before the kharif season was to commence.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : खरीफ तो हर साल आता है ।

श्री एस० बी० चव्हाण : अगले साल के लिए।

My only request is this. In fact, I was interested and was trying to find out in the Budget proposals which were put forth by the hon. Finance Minister whether they are in consonance with the ideology and the promises, the assurances given to the people incorporated in the Finance Minister's speech itself that we would like to have the prices brought down. This is a priority item, item number one of their agenda. We thought that in the Budget it would get reflected. But I find that they have chosen transport. Transport and communication seem to be their favourite item where every part of it has been taxed by the Finance Minister. Certainly the resource crunch I can understand. You are required to raise resources. Nobody can doubt about it. But, at the same time, there are items which are going to have cascading effect. The Finance Ministry people are saying that this is hardly going to be of the order of 1.0 or 1.5 per cent. The Finance Minister himself was pleased to tell on TV that we were expecting this would happen but they had to admit now that it had gone beyond our expectations. He admitted it. There is no doubt about it. So, certainly, we would like to understand from the hon. Finance Minister the plan of action that he has. We get a totally different kind of impression from your Budget proposals. It does

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not get reflected. That this thing is going to be done by you is not brone out by your Budget proposals. Even now it is not late. You will have to do something in order to see that life in fact becomes tolerable for the common man. If things are going to be beyond the reach of the common man and still we go on saying all kinds of things, I am sure that nobody is going to be convinced about it. That is why we would like to understand from you, both the Railway Ministry as well as the Finance Ministry. They were rather very hard on both these aspects. That is why it had a cascading effect on all the items. The prices of all the items have increased to such an extent that it has become almost an impossibility for we people to understand whether your policies are getting reflected in your Budget or not.

I am in full agreement with hon. Vajpayeeji when he says that the public distribution system willl have to be properly thought about. The kind of public distribution system and the kind of subsidy, food and fertilizer subsidy, have to be thought about. Is it the impression of the Government that it is reaching the targeted groups? A number of things do not reach the people for whom these subsidies are meant. You are trying to subsidise food items. That is the impression of the Government. At least I never had any doubt about it that it is waste of money, that it, in fact, is not reaching the tribals, the poorer sections. They are not getting the benefit of it. In fertilizer subsidy, who is the beneficiary? It is not the cultivator. It is the manufacturers who are getting the subsidy on fertilizer. You will have to streamline all these things. Whether we are indifficulty or out of difficulty, you will have to have a regular system by which items which are considered necessary for consumption of the common man are made available to him at a reasonable price. That is the point. For that you will have to consider and have an integrated view.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chavan, you can continue after lunch. Now the House is adjourned till 2.30 P.M. for lunch.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirtyone minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirtyfour minutes past two of the clock, **the Vice-Chairman (Dr. Nagen Saikia)** in the Chair.

Short duration discussion on the Price situation in the country—Contd.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA): Shri Chavanji to continue.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would just like to make two points. The hon. Members on the ruling side were telling that if the Opposition have any suggestion, they can offer constructive and concrete suggestions. In the forenoon I was on the point of public distribution system. In fact, this is a matter where the Government will have to go deep into the matter and try to find out whether the public distribution system is serving the purpose for which it is meant. In fact, it will be a salutary measures if the essential items being listed by the Government like...food subsidy and other subsidies are given to a reasonable extent and vulnerable sections of society, who in fact, deserve to get all the support and the assistance from the Government, should be particularly chosen for this kind of dispensation. The public distribution should be streamlined in consultation with the State Governments concerned and it has to be properly implemented in order to see that the benefits do not go to people, who, in fact, do not deserve this. Actually, a large number of people who are quite effluent, who can afford to spend money and purchase things from the open market, are entitled for purchasing the food-